

**Belmont Cable Access Committee (CAC)**  
**Minutes 4/15/2003**  
**7:30PM, BHS Room 116**

**Present**

Committee: Todd Bloniarz, Sue Timberlake, Maryann Scali, Larry Kutner  
Comcast: No one present, although Abiodun stopped by at 8:30 for about 10 minutes.  
(Please note: Abiodun taught a workshop in the Ch. 8 studio from 7:00-8:30pm.)

**Call to Order**

Todd Bloniarz officially called the meeting to order at 7:50.

**Review of 3/18/02 Minutes**

Minutes were received and approved.

**Issues from the Community/Complaints/Concerns**

Red Sox games that were moved from NESN (Ch. 37) to the AT&T Broadband Channel (not on Belmont cable system) were shown on Channel 57. Question: is this one of the Belmont town channels? [Yes. Belmont has the right to use it, if it has a need.]

Multiple channels reception is poor; raised issues of town channels (is town going digital in the next nine months?). [Yes]

When Selectmen's meeting is held in other town halls rooms the audio quality is poor; for \$17 an adapter can be used to improve sound.

Town meeting is scheduled for April 28, 30, May 5 and 7. The studio will be broadcasting the meetings live.

There was a discussion of the station going non-profit.

Todd reported on a meeting he recently attended – "The Future of Local Media in Arlington". The town of Arlington is moving ahead with plans to run their own non-profit public access station; can Belmont use their expertise to set up their own non-profit station? Todd is planning to attend Arlington's next meeting on April 16.

On May 20 there will be a joint meeting of the CAC and Cable Advisory Committees in the studio at 7:30; the primary topic will be discussing options for the town to run a non-profit public access station. The CAC will meet prior to the joint meeting in BHS Room 116 (at 7:00) to go over all other committee issues. Larry cannot be present 5/20 but asked how the town can afford payrolls, etc. Does Comcast pay a fee? Do cable users pay a 5% fee?

**Report on Studio Operations**

Abiodun sent out notices of the events calendar to get volunteers to cover meetings and received a positive response. He reported that the Alphagen bulletin board is working. The station is still looking forward to upgrading studio equipment. The quality of dubs is not as good due to the age and general wear and tear of the editing decks. Tapes are old and used.

The committee decided to postpone the Open House to the Fall. It was so voted at the meeting Todd was the Chairman.

**Review of Finances and Capital Equipment**

Get up to speed with more updated equipment, TV “studio in a box” is an option for purchase. Larry brought in a video tape overview of this product which was viewed by the CAC and then given to Abiodun and Mark to view to see if this would be worth purchasing for the station.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Scali, Clerk pro-tem